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6 May 1965

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director, Intelligence
THROUGH : Assistant Director, Current Intelligence
FROM : Chief, China and Asian Satellites Division
SUBJECT : Public Acknowledgement by the DRV of Links to the Viet Cong

1. Hanoi has always been exceedingly careful in propaganda and official statements regarding its relationship with the Viet Cong. So far as we know, the DRV has never explicitly acknowledged in public any organizational link between itself and the Viet Cong.

2. Hanoi's prime role in directing and assisting the Viet Cong, however, has occasionally been implicitly acknowledged in public by DRV leaders and by the regime's propaganda. The best examples of this through 1964 were gathered in the Department of State's white book on Vietnam published in February 1964 (See: Aggression From The North, Dept. of State publication 7839, especially pages 20-21). These implicit acknowledgments ranged from the announcement by the 1960 Hanoi party congress that one of the "tasks" of its members was to "liberate South Vietnam," to an April 1964 directive by DRV party central committee that North Vietnamese must give "positive and practical support" to the revolution in South Vietnam.

3. During the past few months, particularly since the air strikes on North Vietnam began, DRV propaganda implicitly linking Hanoi with the Viet Cong has appeared in greater volume. Most of it is in the context of propaganda stressing the necessity of "unity" between the North and South in the "struggle against US aggression." On 30 March, for example, the Liberation Front radio, bragging about the bombing of the US embassy in Saigon, claimed that the act was the "most eloquent response" to both a 22 March Liberation Front statement and to a 27 March DRV Fatherland Front call for increased efforts to "annihilate" the US.

State Dept. review completed

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-2-

4. On 31 March, a statement by a DRV National Assembly committee declared flatly that the "North Vietnamese people... are coordinating the battlefields in North and South Vietnam to defend the North." The statement further asserted that "more than ever before, the revolutionary tasks of North and South Vietnam are closely related."

5. Much the same theme was contained in a 6 April appeal from the DRV's Fatherland Front central committee. This appeal stated that "more than ever we must pool our efforts with the South Vietnamese people in order to annihilate the US aggressors and traitors." The appeal, in addition, made a stronger effort than had been noted in the recent past to project the DRV as the leader and director of the over-all fight in Vietnam. The "entire Vietnamese people," said the appeal, must unite "millions as one under the banner of the Vietnam Workers Party and President Ho Chi Minh."

Prepared By:

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